

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BERLIN 0285 SENT ACTION BONN INFO
SECSTATE LONDON PARIS CINCENR FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD
OPS AEAGG OCO, FEBRUARY 13TH:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 0285

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, WB

SUBJECT: 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF ENDING OF BERLIN AIRLIFT

REF

A. STATE 013572 (NOTAL)

B. BERLIN 44 (NOTAL)

1. SENAT HAS INFORMED US THAT POLITICAL CLEARANCE
FOR ITS AIRLIFT ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION PLANS HAS NOW
BEEN RECEIVED FROM BONN. FOLLOWING SCENARIO INCORPORATES
SENAT'S LATEST PROPOSALS PRESENTED TO ALLIED MISSIONS
TOGETHER WITH OUR OWN THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS: AS CHAIRMAN
OF MONTH WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS ALONG
SAME LINES.

2. HONORED GUESTS WOULD INCLUDE THOSE SET FORTH PARA 4, REF B;
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WE HAVE INFORMED SENAT IT SHOULD PROCEED TO EXTEND THOSE INVITA-

TIONS. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INVITE ONE PILOT AND ONE ENLISTED CREW MEMBER WHO FLEW IN AIRLIFT FROM EACH OF ALLIES, LEAVING IT UP TO RESPECTIVE AIR FORCES TO MAKE SELECTION. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH SENAT ON GUEST LIST. DEPARTMENT EARLIER RAISED POSSIBILITY OF INVITING HIGH-RANKING US MILITARY OR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. SENAT HAS SUGGESTED SUCH NAMES AS MURPHY, MCGLOY RUSH AND SO WE WOULD APPRECIATE GURTHER GUIDANCE IN THIS REGARD. ALLIED AMBASSADORS HAVE ALREADY BLOCKED OUT ANNIVERSARY ON THEIR CALENDARS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE FEASIBLE TO PURSUE SENAT SUGGESTION FOR EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO WIDOWS OF AIRLIFT CREWS, BUT IN GENERAL SUPPORT SENAT APPROACH OF DIRECTING SPECIAL INVITATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAD DIRECT ROLE IN AIRLIFT OR IN BERLIN IN GENERAL.

3. ALL HONORED GUESTS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND ALLIED FORCES DAY CEREMONIES ON MAY 11 AS WELL AS GOVERNING MAYOR'S RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.

4. ON EVENING OF MAY 11, SENAT WOULD HOST LARGE BANQUET FOR 800-900 PERSONS, WHICH WOULD SUBSTITUTE FOR CEREMONY FIRST PROPOSED AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. GOVERNING MAYOR WILL MAKE SPEECH AT DINNER AND SENAT HAS SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES ALSO SPEAK. SENIOR OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THREE ALLIES PRESUMABLY WOULD DO HONORS.

5. USUAL WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT LUFTBRUECKE MEMORIAL ON MAY 12.

6. FOLLOWING WREATH-LAYING, OPEN-HOUSE PROGRAM WILL BE STAGED AT TEMPELHOF. (SENAT HAS SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF OPEN HOUSES AT EACH OF THE THREE AIRPORTS, BUT WE BELIEVE ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH.) WE WOULD ENVISAGE BRINGING IN AIRCRAFT OF TYPE USED DURING AIRLIFT (U.S. C-54 NOW ON PERIMETER OF TEMPELHOF WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO OPEN-HOUSE AREA). WE UNDERSTAND THE BRITISH COULD PROVIDE HASTINGS AIRCRAFT, AND WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME FRENCH PARTICIPATION. AIR FORCE IS INQUIRING AS TO POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING IN MODERN AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT SUCH AS C-141.

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7. SENAT PLANS PHOTOEXHIBIT, IN WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE, WITH ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY OF PERIODIC SHOWINGS IN HANGER AREA OF AIRLIFT FILM.

8. ALLIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE MILITARY BANDS, AND WE SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THIS REQUEST.

9. REQUEST EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON ABOVE SCRIPT

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PLANNING.

10 USCOB CONCURS.

KLEIN

UNQUOTE RUSH

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